

Hume and Hovell Expedition Members

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The expedition party included six servant men. They are listed on two of the centenary monuments as Claude Bossawa, James Fitzpatrick and Henry Angel, Hume's men, while Hovell provided William Bollard, Thomas Smith and Thomas Boyd. In contrast to other expeditions, their names were known and received more attention when Hume required their collaboration to his story in his *Statement of Facts* published in 1855.



The names of all expedition members are inscribed on the first and last monuments marking the route through Victoria, at Lake Hume and Lara.

Note that a search of convict records suggest that recorded names of Bossawa, Bollard and Smith are incorrect (see below).

Although transported to NSW for various 'crimes' the six convict men eventually gained a 'free pardon' following the expedition through Hume's intercession with the Governor. In his letter to Governor Brisbane on his way to Sydney, Hume writes: "... I beg leave to recommend to Your Excellency's notice and favourable consideration, the men who accompanied us on the Expedition, as they have undergone a great deal of fatigue, and have been very attentive to all orders given to them ..."

The pardons did not occur immediately but followed due process of Ticket of Leave, then Certificate of Freedom and finally Pardon. See <https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/convicts/tickets-of-leave>

A search of the ships' arrival records shows that the men were all convicts but some names have slightly different spellings. The spelling changes probably occurred on gaining their 'Free Pardons' and are generally the versions used today.

Claude Barrois (Bossawa) born 1797, arrived on the *Baring*, conditional Certificate of Freedom October 1840

Thomas Boyde (Boyd) born 1800, arrived on the *Isabella*, 1822, conditional Pardon listed November 1837,

James Fitzpatrick, arrived on the *Mangles* in 1822. His Certificate of Freedom granted November 13, 1833 by the Colonial Secretary Office Sydney.

Henry Angel, born 1792, arrived on the *Neptune*, conditional Pardon October 1840, "in consideration of his assistance in the capture of Patrick Burke, the bushranger".

Samuel Bullard (William Bollard), born 1795, arrived on the *Earl of St Vincent*, 1820, Certificate of Freedom December 1826

Benjamin (Thomas) **Smith** arrived on the *Elizabeth*. The 1822 Muster listed with William Hovell at Minto and following the expedition he is listed in Newcastle.

For the journey, the men had a blanket and would sleep together under a tarpaulin. Their clothes, called dress slops, became worn and Hovell mentions these were mended on the rest day at Muddy Creek (Yea) on December 5.

Hume and Hovell rode their horses but the convicts walked the whole way carrying their packs and gun. Hovell refers to the men's plight and the condition of their shoes during the return journey for he describes that the hide of the slaughtered bullock, *Old captain*, was used to make moccasins to replace their worn-out shoes.

At the crossings of the Murrumbidgee, Hume and Kiewa Rivers, **Thomas Boyd** assisted Hume in swimming the lines across to secure the rafts. **Claude Barrois** was mentioned on December 14 when the perambulator (distance measuring wheel) broke against a rock. **Fitzpatrick** was chased by aborigines on December 16 evening when they camped Port Phillip. He had gone out alone to shoot ducks. Hume and **Boyd** came to his rescue.

On the trek into Gunning on January 17, two of the men, weakened by the arduous homeward journey on near starvation diet, were carried in on the carts that had been retrieved only days before at the Goodradibee River. Later these two were named **Barrois** and **Smith**. **Henry Angel** was mentioned as strong and reliable man who could manage the horses and cattle.

Following the Expedition, **Fitzpatrick** (at Cootamundra), **Angel** (at Uardry, near Hay) and **Boyd** (at Tumut) became respected landowners. They were staunch supporters of Hume who quoted their favourable comments in his reply letter to Hovell regarding their disagreements over the command of the expedition.

Fitzpatrick died at 'Glenlie', the family home, Campbelltown, aged 86. **Angel** died in 1881 at the great age of 91, survived by his wife and 13 children. **Smith** married Sarah Dean had two children and died quite young in 1837 at Eastern Creek NSW. **Bollard** was a hotelier, the *Carriers Arms* at Picton – he had a wife and family and is buried in Picton. **Bossawa**, who never married, died in the Sydney Convict Hospital in 1841. **Thomas Boyd** was the last surviving member of the party. He settled on Gilmore Creek near Tumut, where he married, raised a large family of 12 children and died at 'Windowie' on June 27 1885, aged 86 – he is

buried in the Tumut Cemetery. He was a special guest in 1883 at the ceremony for the linking of Victorian and NSW railway lines in Albury.

A tribute to the men can be found on the Hume and Hovell walking Track with track-heads and campsites named after them. Three major track heads commemorate the names of James Fitzpatrick (Wee Jasper), Thomas Boyd (Goobarragandra River) and Henry Angel (Burra Creek). Three campsites have the names of Bossawa (Micalong Creek), Ben Smith (Jounama Pondage) and Samuel Bollard (Tunnel Creek).